

Amendments

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (all claims are presented below):

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A method for managing file access via an electronic message, the method comprising:

- (a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field;
- (b) creating an electronic message containing indicia of addresses and a reference to an electronic file, and generating file access authorization data, by:
 - (1) accepting, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted; and
 - (2) either or both:
 - (i) accepting, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file and generating associated file authorization data; or
 - (ii) accepting, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file and generating associated file authorization data;
- (c) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses identified by the indicia in the first field; and
- (d) in response to a request for access to the file referenced in the electronic message by a viewer identified in the file access authorization data as authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file, separately from the electronic message, to the address associated with the requesting viewer.

Claim 2 (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting the electronic message further comprises transmitting, in or with the message, a reference to the file, the reference identifying a location of the file.

Claim 3 (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 4 (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting an attachment that includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- (a) including in the electronic message window a file identification field; and
- (b) accepting indicia identifying the file in the file identification field.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secondary message recipient field and wherein creating an electronic message further comprises accepting in the secondary message recipient field additional indicia of addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted.

Claim 7 (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secret secondary message recipient field and wherein creating an electronic message further comprises accepting in the secret secondary message recipient field additional indicia of addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying labels near respective fields, wherein:

- (a) the first field is labeled "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the secondary message recipient field is labeled "CC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (c) the secret secondary message field is labeled "BCC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the electronic message window comprises displaying:

- (a) the second field with the associated label "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (b) the third field with the associated label "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message, to addresses identified by indicia recorded in the first field, but not to addresses identified by indicia recorded in the second or third fields.

Claim 11 (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying an electronic message window further comprises:

- (a) accepting input from a user directing composition of an electronic message; and
- (b) responsive to the input, transmitting display rendering indicia to a window display subsystem to cause display of the electronic message window.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein transmitting the electronic message comprises transmitting a series of data frames, the frames comprising:

- (a) indicia identifying the file;
- (b) a message recipient address frame;
- (c) a file viewer frame including a header and a first set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of a viewer authorized to view the file; and
- (d) a file editor frame including a header and a second set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of an editor authorized to modify the file.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

- (a) receiving and displaying the message;
- (b) upon receipt of the message at an address of a person identified as a viewer or editor, permitting access to an image of the file; and

(c) upon receipt of the message at an address of a person identified as an editor, further permitting access to modify the file.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for managing access to a file, via an electronic message, the method comprising:

(a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field;

(b) creating an electronic message containing indicia of addresses and a reference to an electronic file, and generating file access authorization data, by:

(1) accepting, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted; and

(2) either or both:

(i) accepting, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file and generating associated file access authorization data; or

(ii) accepting, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file and generating associated file access authorization data;

(c) transmitting indicia of the electronic message to the addresses identified by the indicia in the first field; and

(d) in response to a request for access to the file referenced in the electronic message by a viewer identified in the file access authorization data as authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file, separately from the electronic message, to the address associated with the requesting viewer.

Claim 15 (Currently amended) A system for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the system comprising:

(a) means for accepting, into a first field of the message, indicia identifying addresses of one or more recipients of the message and, accepting,

into a second and third field, indicia designating each recipient as having viewing or editing privileges of the file, respectively; and

(b) means for transmitting the electronic message to the recipients within one or more domains distinct from the first domain such that, without transferring the file out of the first domain with the electronic message:

(1) any recipients designated as file viewers and recipients designated as file editors can access the file; and

(2) any recipients designated as file editors can modify the file.

Claim 16 (Currently amended) A method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

(a) causing the electronic message program to display a message window that, further to the message recipient field of part (1), also includes a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

(b) causing the electronic message program to accept user input, into an electronic message formed using the message window, of indicia of addresses, and (i) for any addresses inputted into the file viewer field, generating authorization data signifying viewing privileges for a file identified in the file identification field, and (ii) for any addresses inputted into the file editor field editing privileges for the file.

Claim 17 (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising, before the acts recited in parts (a) and (b), installing one or more dynamically linked library files to a folder designated for software plug-ins of the electronic message program.

Claim 18 (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising reconfiguring the electronic message program such that it no longer causes the transmission of the file as an attachment to the electronic message, for addresses belonging to recipients having viewing or editing privileges of the file and, instead, causes the transmission of the file to such addresses in the form of a reference to the location of the file.

Claim 19 (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein causing the transmission in the form of a reference to the file comprises transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 20 (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising causing the electronic message program to indicate whether the file will be transmitted as an attachment to the electronic message or separately from the message.

Claim 21 (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein causing the message window to display a message window that further includes a file viewer field and a file editor field includes displaying labels near respective fields, wherein:

- (a) the file viewer field is labeled "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (b) the file editor field is labeled "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 22 (Currently amended) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

- (a) causing the electronic message program to display a message window that, further to the message recipient field of part (1), also includes a file viewer field and a file editor field; and
- (b) causing the electronic message program to accept user input, into an electronic message formed using the message window, of indicia of addresses, and (i) for any addresses inputted into the file viewer field, generating authorization data signifying viewing privileges for a file identified in the file identification field, and (ii) for any addresses inputted into the file editor field, generating authorization data signifying editing privileges for the file.

Claim 23 (Original) The data storage medium of claim 22 wherein the indicia of instructions reside within one or more dynamically linked library files.

Claim 24 (Original) The data storage medium of claim 23 wherein the dynamically linked library files reside within a plug-in folder of the electronic message program.

Claim 25 (Currently amended) An electronic message system comprising an electronic message program that, during normal operation:

(a) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field;

(b) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more addresses entered into the message recipient field;

(c) includes, in a location in the electronic message separate from the message recipient field, indicia designating whether addresses entered into the message recipient field as are associated with message recipients having viewing ~~or editing~~ privileges of a file entered into the file identification field and whether such addresses are associated with message recipients having editing privileges; and

(d) stores authorization data, in a format and location suitable for controlling access to the file, corresponding to the indicia and signifying the identity of message recipients having viewing ~~or editing~~ privileges for the file and the identity of message recipients having editing privileges for the file.

Claim 26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Withdrawn) A method for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the method comprising:

(a) accepting one or more addresses for an electronic message and for each address, an authorization status as either (1) authorized for direct file access or (2) not authorized for direct file access;

(b) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses, at least some of which are within a second domain distinct from the first domain; and

(c) based on the authorization status, for each address authorized for direct file access, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message, and for each address not authorized for direct file access, transferring data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message further comprises transmitting, in or with the message, a reference to the file identifying a location of the file.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting an attachment that includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 further comprising displaying an electronic message window that includes a first field, a second field, and a third field; and wherein accepting message addresses comprises accepting, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted, and either or both: accepting, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file; or accepting, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file.

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secondary message recipient field and a secret secondary message recipient field and displaying:

(a) the first field labeled as "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;

(b) the secondary message field labeled as “CC:” or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and

(c) the secret secondary message field labeled as “BCC:” or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein displaying the electronic message window comprises displaying:

(a) the second field labeled as “VIEWER:” or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and

(b) the third field labeled as “EDITOR:” or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 39 (Canceled)

Claim 40 (Canceled)

Claim 41 (Canceled)

Claim 42 (Canceled)

Claim 43 (Canceled)

Claim 44 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the addresses to which the electronic message is transmitted are within one or more domains distinct from the first domain.

Claim 45 (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to transmit, in or with the message, a reference to the file that identifies a location of the file.

Claim 46 (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 45 wherein the reference to be transmitted includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 47 (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to display labels near respective fields of the electronic message window, wherein:

- (a) the label for the third field is "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the label for the first field is "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (c) the label for the second field is "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 48 (Previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to transmit data, upon request by a recipient having viewing or editing privileges of the file to an address identified by indicia recorded in the second or third field.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the method comprising:

- (a) accepting one or more addresses for an electronic message and for each address, an authorization status as either (1) authorized for direct file access or (2) not authorized for direct file access;
- (b) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses, at least some of which are within a second domain distinct from the first domain; and
- (c) based on the authorization status, for each address authorized for direct file access, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message, and for each address not authorized for direct file access, transferring data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn) The data storage medium of claim 49 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

(a) causing the message window displayed by the electronic message program to further include a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

(b) causing the electronic message program to accept user input, into an electronic message formed using the message window, of indicia of addresses, and (i) for any addresses inputted into the file viewer field, generating authorization data signifying viewing privileges for a file identified in the file identification field, and (ii) for any addresses inputted into the file editor field, generating authorization data signifying editing privileges for the file.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn) The data storage medium of claim 50 wherein the indicia of instructions reside within one or more dynamically linked library files.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn) The data storage medium of claim 51 wherein the dynamically linked library files reside within a plug-in folder of the electronic message program.

Claim 53 (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising: (1) an Internet computer along a transmission medium path between a source computer and a destination computer forming at least part of a on the Internet computer network; and (2) a data stream in the transmission medium of the network in transit through the Internet computer, the data stream encoding data arranged in a plurality of data frames and comprising:

(a) header data identifying a the destination computer to which the signal data stream is directed;

(b) data, in a first frame, encoding the body of an email message displayable by the destination computer, ~~if properly programmed~~;

(c) data, in a second frame, identifying to the destination computer, ~~if properly programmed~~, a computer-readable file at a defined location in a the computer network;

(d) data, in a third frame, identifying to the destination computer, ~~if properly programmed~~, whether, if a user at the destination computer makes a request to view the file identified by data in the second frame at the defined location, a computer controlling access to the file will permit access to the file and

and display of the file at the destination computer; and

(e) data, in a fourth frame, identifying to the destination computer, ~~if properly programmed,~~ whether, if a user at the destination computer makes a request to modify the file identified by data in the second frame at the defined location, a computer controlling access to the file will permit access to the file, display of the file at the destination computer, and modification of the file through commands issued from the destination computer.

Claim 54 (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein data in the second frame of the data stream in the transmission medium of the network comprises data computer-readable as a computer program implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 55 (New) A method for managing file access via an electronic message, the method comprising:

(a) displaying a message window that includes a message recipient field and a file identification field;

(b) generating an electronic message for transmission to one or more addresses entered into the message recipient field;

(c) accepting, in at least one location in the message window separate from the message recipient field, indicia designating whether addresses entered into the message recipient field are associated with message recipients having viewing privileges for a file entered into the file identification field and whether such addresses are associated with message recipients having editing privileges for the file; and

(d) generating and storing authorization data, in a format and location suitable for controlling access to the file, corresponding to the indicia and signifying the identity of message recipients having viewing privileges for the file and the identity of message recipients having editing privileges for the file.

Claim 56 (New) The method of claim 55 further comprising thereafter:

(a) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses identified by the indicia in the message recipient field; and

(b) in response to a request for access to the file by a viewer identified in the authorization data as authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file, separately from the electronic message, to the address associated with the requesting viewer.